

COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6

A **meeting** of the **COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, met on **Monday, January 12, 2004**, in the Assembly Room of the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Council Member District No. 6, Chairman; Mr. Milton Farley, Council Member District No. 1; Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, Council Member District No. 2; Mr. William E. Crosby, Council Member District No. 3; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Council Member District No. 4; Mr. Dennis L. Fish, Council Member District No. 5; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Council Member District No. 7; Mr. Steve C. Davis, Council Member District No. 8; Mr. D. Mark Stokes, County Attorney, and Ms. Barbara B. Austin, Clerk of County Council. Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio, was excused from this meeting.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the electronic and print media were duly notified.

Chairman Mims called the meeting to order. Council Member Spooner gave the Invocation, and Council Member Pinckney led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Mims asked for approval of minutes from the Committee on Justice and Public Safety Meeting held November 10, 2003.

It was moved by Council Member Spooner and seconded by Council Member Fish to approve the minutes as presented. This motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

A. Judge Ava Ayers, Berkeley County Summary Court, Re: 1) Convert constable hours to clerical hours.

Judge Ava Ayers stated her request to eliminate a position of office hours (20 hours) for a seasoned constable and convert it to a permanent, part-time Administrative Clerk I position for 20 hours. This would save the County \$464.22, as the Administrative Clerk I position was a lower paying position. The four hours at night needed for bond court was interfering with the present constable's full time job. The individual would continue serving papers, but the Administrative Clerk I would perform the 20 hours of the constable's office

work, which, in this case, was in Bond Court. The judges in that area were all in agreement with this arrangement.

Council Member Steve Davis asked what area the constable was serving?

Judge Ayers responded that the constable served in the St. Stephen Area. In addition, three other constables served that area.

Council Member Crosby stated that savings for the remainder of fiscal year 2004 would be \$464.22. In the year 2004/2005, the County would have another position, but the salary for this new position would be less.

It was moved by Council Member Farley and seconded by Council Member Crosby to approve Judge Ayers request to transfer 20 office hours from one constable position to that of a permanent, part-time Administrative Clerk I. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Without objection from the Committee, Judge Ayers addressed an item not on the evening's agenda.

Judge Ayers stated that she had learned about a grant just recently, the Byrne Grant, in which the Magistrate's Office could apply. One of the goals of this grant was to advocate technology in the state court system. Berkeley County did not have computers on the Judge's bench, and they were needed for attorneys citing cases and statutes. The state provided West Law to the County, and electronic wiring ran to the benches, but the County lacked the computers to access this program. The computers would be of value to defendants and plaintiffs. The full Byrne Grant Proposal was, as follows:

- 6 bench computers; estimated cost each – \$1,300; totaling \$7,800
- 6 staff computers; estimated cost each – \$1,300; totaling \$7,800
- 6 licenses – Microsoft Office; new bench computers; estimated cost each \$300; totaling \$1,800

Judge Ayers continued by stating this grant would require 25 percent matching funds from Berkeley County. It would not be needed until the 2005 budget year. The grant application had to be submitted by January 16th. Judge Ayers asked for the Committee's approval to submit this grant on Friday. She also requested the Committee's support for the 25 percent matching funds in budget year 2005, totaling \$4,350, if the full grant was awarded.

Council Member Crosby stated that if the Committee approved Judge Ayers' request to submit an application for this grant, County Council would approve it at the Regular Meeting scheduled for January 26th. In addition, the 25 percent required matching funds would need to be discussed again at budget time.

Judge Ayers stated that would be fine. If they did not obtain the grant, it would be a "moot" point.

It was moved by Council Member Spooner and seconded by Council Member Fish to approve the Magistrate's Office application for the Byrne Grant, with Berkeley County matching funds of 25 percent to be included in the 2004/2005 fiscal year budget if the grant is awarded. This motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

For information, Judge Ayers stated that, thus far, \$71,000 had been collected from letters sent out to individuals with regard to debt set-off. This did not include money that would be generated from 2003 individual tax returns. The Committee accepted this as information. No action was required.

It was moved by Council Member Steve Davis and seconded by Council Member Farley to adjourn the Committee on Justice and Public Safety. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

February 9, 2004
Date Approved

COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6

Members: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1
Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2
Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mr. Dennis Fish, District No. 5
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr. District No. 7
Mr. Steve C. Davis, District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

A **meeting** of the **COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, will be held on **Monday January 12, 2004** in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at **6:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 10, 2003

- A. Judge Ava Ayers, Berkeley County Summary Court, Re:**
1. Convert constable hours to clerical hours.

January 7, 2004
S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk of County Council